Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Details of the funds released so far are as under:—

State	Amount released (Rs. in crore)
Himachal Pradesh	41.44
Rajasthan Uttar	197.15
Pradesh	129.96
TOTAL:	368.55

(b) and (c) Bihar is proposed to be included in Phase I of the World Bank assisted PMGSY in addition to the four States already covered under the programme.

National Employment Guarantee Scheme

1073. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scope of the National Employment Guarantee Scheme is being expanded to cover employment to every one who demands it;

(b) what is the stage of consideration of the said proposal;

(c) what are the financial implications of the revised proposal;

(d) whether funds to the extent needed will be made available by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (e) The Standing Committee on Rural Development in its report submitted to the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha has recommended for universalisation of the NREG Bill, 2004 with a view to make it self targeting. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Rural road proposals pending environmental clearance

1074. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Rural Development has complained to the

Environment Ministry that a large number of rural road proposals involving forest clearance simply fail to see the light of day as authorities keep sitting on them;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in clearance;

(c) if so, whether in any communique the Ministry of Rural Development has listed 272 such pending proposals under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY); and

(d) what are the steps Government propose to take to urge upon Ministry to clear these projects so that rural road development plans are implemented immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Rural Roads is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State Government/District Panchayat to ensure that lands are available for taking up the proposed road works, including obtaining forest clearance, wherever required, from the concerned Forest Authority. Ministry of Rural Development, *vide* its letter dated 2nd May, 2005, had forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, a State-wise list of 272 cases requiring clearance under the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980 with the request that they may take up the matter with the concerned authorities in the States, where forest clearance is pending in respect of rural road works, for early forest clearance of the pending proposals.

(d) Ministry of Environment and Forests, at the time of formulation of PMGSY as a 'Centrally Sponsored Scheme', had stated that in case of involvement of forest land for construction of roads, clearance is needed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which is statutory. The Ministry had further stated that they have delegated powers to their six Regional Offices and in case all information is complete, clearance can be obtained within a period of six weeks. All State Governments have, accordingly, been advised by this Ministry to process such cases well in time and send reports so that the matter can be taken up with the Ministry of Environment and Forests in case of very substantial delay. Ministry of Environment and Forests have also been requested for grant of general approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion

of forest land to Government Department for the activities under PMGSY for its effective implementation.

Budget for A.P. under Bharat Nirman

1075. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budget released and spent so far in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise under Rs. 1,74,000 crores approved for Bharat Nirman, envisaging development in rural areas.

(b) the details of this budget, released and spent so far in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise with regard to irrigation, roads, housing, water supply, electrification and rural telecommunication; and

(c) the details of places, district-wise in Andhra Pradesh, where the scheme of development of irrigation, roads, housing water supply, electrification and rural telecommunication had been implemented from Bharat Nirman Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The formulation of Bharat Nirman which was announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech in the Union Budget 2005-06 is a 4 year programme which is scheduled to be completed by 2008-09. However, while the Rural Roads Programme would need one more year, the programme of Rural Electrification would extend till the end of the Eleventh Plan. Rural Telephone Connectivity is proposed to be completed in three years. The budget allocation for the components of Bharat Nirman is not to be made district-wise. However, under Indira Awaas Yojana which is a Rural Housing programme, the details of district-wise Central allocation for Andhra Pradesh are given in the Statement enclosed (See below). Bharat Nirman as a time-bound plan has been launched only in the current year (2005-06), therefore, at this point of time no estimates can be made of the amount spent. The Ministry of Rural Development is responsible for implementation of Rural housing, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Rural Roads components of Bharat Nirman. The details of central allocation and amount released to Andhra Pradesh are as under: